

"OK, everyone out on the softball field," yelled the coach. Ed filed out of the gym with the rest of the class. He hated to go to the softball field. He knew that if the class was going to the softball field, then they would have to play softball. Ed knew that softball was not his best sport. Whenever he tried to hit the ball with the bat, he missed. The other kids laughed at him when he went up to bat to hit the ball. However, even though Ed hated to go up to bat, he hated waiting for teams to be picked even more. Standing alone, as the team captains called out the students' names, was the worst part of the PE class for Ed. His name was always the last to be called.

This day was no different from any other day on the softball field. The two most popular kids in the class were voted to be team captains. Then the team captains began to pick their teams. One by one, the captains called all of the kids' names. Ed was the only student left standing on the sidelines. "OK, we will take Ed," said one of the team captains with a sigh. Ed walked over to the group, pretending it did not matter that he was the last kid picked for a team.

Ed's team was the first team up to bat. One by one, the kids went up to bat, hit the ball, and ran to first base. Some of the team members were able to run all the way around the bases to home plate.

Finally it was Ed's turn to go up to bat. The pitcher yelled, "Easy out," and the fielders moved closer. Ed clenched his teeth because for once he would like to show all of these mean kids. The pitcher wound up the ball and then let it fly toward Ed. Ed swung his bat and heard the sound of a CRACK! Ed could feel the solid feeling of the ball hitting the bat. Ed and the other kids watched in surprise as the ball flew high into the air and over the fence! Ed ran around the

bases. He ran to first base, second base, third base, and on in to home plate. His team stood up and cheered! The coach came over and gave Ed a pat on the back. Ed felt very proud of his hit. He had finally shown all of those other kids that he could hit a softball, too.

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